



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 27, 2000

H.R. 3484 **Child Sex Crimes Wiretapping Act of 1999**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 20, 2000

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3484 would not result in any significant cost to the federal government. Enacting H.R. 3484 could affect direct spending and receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the bill, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant. H.R. 3484 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 3484 would add certain sexual crimes against children to the list of offenses for which wiretaps and other interceptions of communications can be authorized. Implementing the bill could result in more successful investigations and prosecutions in cases involving such crimes. CBO expects that any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected. Any such additional costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 3484 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years. CBO expects that any additional receipts and direct spending would be negligible because of the small number of cases involved.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.